

BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

R. C. WEBSTER

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.





*With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Dept.  
Darwen*



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BOROUGH OF DARWEN

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary

Administration

OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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1950-51.

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County Council .....		
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Director of Public Cleansing .....		
District Sanitary Inspectors .....	{	C. R. PALING, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert.), M.S.I.A. Cert., R.S.I. in Sanitary Science.
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Clerical Staff .....	{	A. ALSTON.
		Miss E. BARON.
		R. C. DAVIDSON. (Absent in H.M. Forces from 7/12/50.)
		F. TOWNLEY.

## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Child Welfare.	Greenfield Institute.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays. 9-30 a.m. (Specialist).	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m. and Tuesdays by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 3-30 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ultra-Violet Light.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday to Friday by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Clinics.	Civic Health Centre.	Minor Ailments. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ophthalmic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.	Health Department, Victoria Street, Blackburn.	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation.
Cardiac Clinic for Schoolchildren.	Tullvallen Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	20, Railway Road.	Monday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males—Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Friday, 7-30 p.m. Females—Monday, 5-30 p.m. Thursday, 5-30 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

September, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1950.

The rate of Infant Mortality is a little higher than last year's record figure but this is an example of the possibility that statistics by themselves do not give a true picture. Eleven of the fifteen infant deaths occurred in the first month of life, from such conditions as prematurity, congenital abnormalities, or injury during birth; of the remaining four deaths, two were also due to congenital abnormalities, leaving only two deaths from diseases of infancy (viz., broncho-pneumonia). No deaths from gastro-enteritis occurred. This is indeed a remarkably satisfactory picture. It seems that without rashness we may say that infant mortality has reached an irreducible minimum level. Such figures indicate a high standard of child care and a level of achievement which would have seemed fanciful a generation ago.

The birth-rate, however, shows a continuing downward trend, and in fact births do not keep pace with deaths; this must inevitably lead to a rise in the proportion of elderly people in Darwen, as indeed generally throughout the country, which is likely to have far-reaching results. It must not be supposed that the reduction in infant mortality can compensate this; any such view is mathematically fallacious.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis is higher than in the preceding year, but in relatively small numbers minor fluctuations tend to be exaggerated in appearance. The death-rate from tuberculosis in Darwen is almost exactly the same as that for the 148 towns in England and Wales whose population is 25,000 to 50,000, viz., 0.33 per 1,000 of the population, or in other words the chance that any individual will die in any

particular year of tuberculosis is 1 in 3,000. There is nothing to indicate that any employment or part of the town is associated with these cases.

I thank you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for your keen interest and co-operation during the year, and all members of the department for their hard work and cheerfulness at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

# PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# Summary of Statistics and Social Conditions.

1950.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

Geographical Position ...	Lat. 53° 41' 25" N. Lon. 2° 28' 32" W.
Elevation above sea level .....	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation...	Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.
Area (in acres) .....	5,959
Population—Census, 1931 .....	36,012
Population — Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1950 .....	31,030
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1931 .....	10,258
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1950 .....	10,522
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1931 .....	10,385
Rateable Value .....	£189,889
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£755

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 14,242 insured adult persons, the average per cent. unemployed was .35 and of 772 insured juveniles, the average unemployed was 0.9 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1949 were:— Percentage adult unemployment, .337 percentage juvenile unemployment, .075.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	{	Legitimate .....	209 ... 186 ...	395	Birth-rate per 1,000
		Illegitimate .....	11 ... 8 ...	19	estimated home
		Total .....	220 ... 194 ...	414	population mid-1950:
					Crude ..... 13.3
					Adjusted .... 14.1
STILLBIRTHS:	{	Legitimate .....	7 ... 10 ...	17	
		Illegitimate .....	Nil ... Nil ...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 total
		Total .....	7 ... 10 ...	17	(Live and Still)
					Births ..... 39
DEATHS:	{				Death-rate per 1,000
		.....	244 ... 245 ...	489	estimated home
					population mid-1950:
					Crude ..... 15.8
					Adjusted .... 13.91
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	{	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion .....		1	
		Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .....		2.32	

INFANTILE MORTALITY. (Infants under the age of 1 year.)				Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Legitimate Infants	7	8	15	.....	38
Illegitimate Infants	Nil	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Total Deaths	7	8	15	.....	36

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns 20,000 to 50,000.
1941	64	59	56
1942	57	49	46
1943	47	49	46
1944	46	46	44
1945	72	46	43
1946	34	43	37
1947	39	41	36
1948	31	34	32
1949	29	32	30
1950	36	29.8	29.4

OTHER INFANT DEATHS.			Rate per 1,000 population.	
	Total.			
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	.....	Nil	.....	0.000
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages)	.....	Nil	.....	0.000
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)...	.....	Nil	.....	0.000

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.			
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	.....		11
Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births	.....		27

**Births.**—The number of live births registered during the year was 414, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 14.1 per 1,000 The trend of this rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales, is shown in the following table:—

Year.	DARWEN.				ENGLAND AND WALES.
	No. of Births.			Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1941	190	173	363	12.1	14.2
1942	191	177	368	12.5	14.0
1943	213	212	425	14.9	16.5
1944	220	192	412	14.53	17.6
1945	205	183	388	13.72	16.1
1946	265	230	495	16.5	19.1
1947	303	274	577	19.0	20.5
1948	257	244	501	16.2	17.9
1949	213	238	451	14.6	16.7
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8

**Illegitimate Births.**—The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per cent. of Live Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.
1941	19	5.23	1	52
1942	14	3.80	1	71
1943	28	6.58	Nil	Nil
1944	28	6.79	4	142
1945	32	8.25	3	93
1946	30	6.45	1	33
1947	21	3.64	Nil	Nil
1948	15	3.00	1	66
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil

**Stillbirths.**—The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	
	Legiti-mate.	Illegiti-mate.	Total.		DARWEN.	ENGLAND AND WALES.
1941	6	6	12	32	0.40	0.51
1942	15	2	17	44	0.58	0.54
1943	22	2	24	53	0.84	0.51
1944	21	1	22	53	0.77	0.50
1945	13	Nil	13	32	0.46	0.46
1946	11	Nil	11	21	0.37	0.53
1947	14	2	16	27	0.53	0.50
1948	12	Nil	12	24	0.39	0.42
1949	14	Nil	14	30	0.45	0.39
1950	17	Nil	17	39	0.54	0.37

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 489, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 13.91.

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

Year.	DARWEN.		ENGLAND AND WALES. Rate per 1,000.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	
1941	462	15.4	12.9
1942	416	14.2	13.9
1943	497	17.4	12.1
1944	429	15.1	11.6
1945	440	15.5	11.4
1946	496	16.6	11.5
1947	486	16.0	12.0
1948	461	14.9	10.8
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	4	3	7
Tuberculosis, other .....	1	2	3
Syphilitic disease .....	1	—	1
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases .....	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	16	8	24
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	10	2	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	16	17	33
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .....	—	—	—
Diabetes .....	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	34	45	79
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	20	19	39
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	4	1	5
Other Heart Disease .....	65	71	136
Other Circulatory Disease .....	9	11	20
Influenza .....	1	4	5
Pneumonia .....	5	3	8
Bronchitis .....	13	15	28
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	4	—	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	4	1	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa .....	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	4	7	11
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations .....	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	15	18	33
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	4	—	4
All other Accidents .....	6	6	12
Suicide .....	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	244	245	489

# General Provisions of Health Services.

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A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services.—Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

# Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

Disease.	Cases Notified and Accepted										Total Deaths	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.										Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	24	...	2	6	10	4	1	1	...	..	...	9	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding Rubella) .....	267	8	63	55	139	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ....	242	17	60	57	105	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal) .....	12	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	6	2	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Paralytic .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	22	...	3	6	3	2	...	5	2	1	...	2	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...
Malaria—Contracted in: This Country ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastro Enteritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning .....	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...
Totals .....	578	26	128	124	257	9	4	12	13	5	...	16	3

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the second quarter of the year. Preventive inoculations against this disease are as yet experimental and not solidly established. No case of Diphtheria occurred, a pleasing change from the position some ten years

ago. Measles, although slightly less prevalent than in 1947, 1948 and 1949, remained at rather a high level. It is somewhat remarkable that Measles has recently not shown its former tendency to a two year cycle of incidence, but it has shown a tendency to become mild in type. Two small outbreaks of Sonne Dysentery occurred, the sources of infection remained obscure, but there were indications of the importance of the carrier in spread. An outbreak of Food Poisoning is referred to in more detail on page 29.

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years:—

Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Scarlet Fever .....	42	25	134	75	24
Diphtheria .....	2	1	1	4	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	27	316	487	314	267
Whooping Cough .....	14	55	119	72	242
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal) .....	9	17	21	33	12
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	3	1	4	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	3	5	1	1
Erysipelas .....	2	...	4	3	2
Dysentery .....	1	1	1	...	22
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	3	...	5	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .....	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis Non- Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro-Enteritis .....	...	...	1	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	...	...	6
Totals .....	102	424	775	513	578

**TUBERCULOSIS.** Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions, and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1950:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—5 .....	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
5—10 .....	...	...	2	..	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 .....	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	...
25—35 .....	4	3	...	2	...	2	...	...
35—45 .....	1	4	...	...	2	...	...	...
45—55 .....	4	3	...	1	...	1	...	...
55—65 .....	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
65—75 .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	15	13	4	6	4	5	1	...
	28		10		9		1	

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1940	12	7	4	4	27
1941	12	5	2	5	24
1942	14	7	4	3	28
1943	15	5	5	...	25
1944	15	6	1	2	24
1945	7	5	5	3	20
1946	7	7	3	2	19
1947	23	5	13	8	49
1948	15	8	8	10	41
1949	6	12	5	2	25

**NATIONAL  
ASSISTANCE  
ACT, 1948.  
SECTION 47.**

One case was taken under this section. An order was obtained for removal of the person concerned to a hospital bed. (NOTE.—This order was renewed at expiry of three months; the person died in hospital 3rd February, 1951.) There is no doubt that this action gave this person some months of good care in comfortable surroundings, and was very much in her interests.

PART II.  
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area  
(including Public Cleansing)

Housing, and

Inspection and Supervision of Food

BY

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Etc.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CLEANSING.



# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

## WATER.

**Reservoirs.**—Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs:—Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton.

**Purification.**—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

**Supply.**—The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied direct is 10,424.

There is now one supply by standpipe of town's water to serve three houses lying at a lower level than the northern face of the Council's controlled tip where a roadside well was the former sole source of supply. As the houses are some distance from the mains and are in any case scheduled for radical treatment under the Housing Act, the piping of separate supplies to the houses was not considered justified.

## SAMPLING.

**Chemical.**—Six samples of water from public supplies were submitted for analysis during the year.

All were satisfactorily reported upon.

**Bacteriological.**—Fifteen samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination, eight from public supplies and seven from two private supplies.

Six samples from public supplies and two samples from private supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst two samples from public supplies and five samples from private supplies were unsatisfactorily reported upon. Action was immediately taken and the sources of pollution were removed.

## SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:—

Pails .....	147
Water Closets .....	10851
Waste Water Closets .....	1732
Cesspools .....	1
Total .....	12731

### Conversions and Installations during 1950:—

New Water Closets fixed .....	111
Premises with one New Closet fixed .....	42
Premises with more than one New Closet fixed..	9
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets..	66
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets .....	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets .....	0
Baths installed during the year .....	74
Urinals installed during the year .....	8
Waste Water Closets dismantled .....	0

Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions, on an increasing scale as labour and materials become available, will result in the total abolition of the 1,732 waste water closets.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is seriously polluted by industrial waste effluents. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of houses visited .....	1449
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932) .....	132
Number of inspections of Schools .....	46
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces .....	161
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel .....	52
Number of inspections of Bakehouses .....	8
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds .....	4
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips .....	99
Complaints received and investigated .....	593
Number of re-inspections made .....	5481
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases) .....	78
Number of rooms disinfected .....	72
Number of articles disinfected .....	61
Number of smoke observations taken .....	1
Number of drains, etc., tested .....	392
Total number of defects discovered .....	2490
Informal notices served .....	2490
Statutory notices served .....	73
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year .....	2980

## LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains .....	112
Choked sewers .....	3
Defective soilpipes and water closets .....	78
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls .....	182
Defective plastering .....	322
Dirty houses and premises .....	0
Dangerous buildings .....	23
Dirty and dilapidated closets .....	75
Accumulations of refuse .....	0
Defective or uneven gullies .....	27
Insanitary sinks .....	12
Defective fire ranges .....	71
Broken slop-pipes .....	11

Defective tippers of waste water closets .....	5
Choked waste water closets .....	66
Choked water closets .....	37
Insanitary yards .....	26
Defective internal floors .....	116
Insufficient ventilation .....	278
Burst water pipes .....	31
Defective wash boilers .....	7
Miscellaneous nuisances .....	1008

## **SHOPS.**

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work especially housing has limited visitation far below the level regarded as desirable.

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

One smoke observation was taken during the year, and advice and instruction to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given.

## **DISINFESTATION.**

During the year thirty-two houses were found to be infested with bedbugs and/or vermin, and of these, thirty-two had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

## **SCHOOLS.**

The conversion of latrine closets is now complete with one exception only where the future of the School itself is uncertain but is under present consideration by the Education Authority.

## **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The following are established in the district:—Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor, and one fat melter.

## **MUNICIPAL HOSTEL.**

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was:—Males 125.76. Females 15.85.

## **FACTORIES.**

One hundred and sixty-nine routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting far below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

**CHIEF  
SANITARY  
REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE  
DISTRICT.**

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are:—

The conversion of pail and waste water closets;

The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;

The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;

The control of promiscuous tipping;

The paving of back streets and unmade roads;

The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder ;

The conversion of latrine closets at schools and factories.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

**VEHICLES.**

The refuse collection and disposal service is now completely mechanised, the new tractor-drawn trailer tank for night-soil collection being now in use for one day per week.

**SNOW  
REMOVAL AND  
DEFROSTING  
OF ROADS.**

The department is now wholly responsible for this work. Main and secondary roads, bus routes, and factory approach roads are priorities for treatment.

Two Bunce Snowploughs, one for use with the Tractor, one for a Bedford lorry have been improved and reconditioned for use with light or moderate snowdepths.

For heavy snow the County Council have stationed at Darwen for use here and in adjacent County Districts, a heavy Canadian Mack Lorry, and a heavy duty Cuthbertson Hydraulic Lift Plough, capable of dealing with deep-drifted snow. In addition the Department has purchased a heavy duty Single Blade Johnson Plough for use in deep snow in narrow roads. A spare Johnson High Wing V-Plough, formerly used by attachment to a Transport Depot Single-decker 'Bus is now held for use with our own vehicles.

**REFUSE  
DISPOSAL.  
SALVAGE.**

The system of controlled tipping continues to prove very successful. The Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip is the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive. It is hoped to find a suitable tip-site nearer the centre of the town in order to lessen this.

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers .....	235	0
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins .....	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap .....	21	10
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	0	12
Textiles—Rags, Carpets ...	8	5
Waste-Foods—Pigswill (after boiling) .....	228	0
„ „ Household Bones .....	0	4½
Total .....	493	11½

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £1,944.

## SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1950. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Tip (4,186 loads) .....	6697	12	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (267 loads)...	400	10	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse) .....	311830		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse) .....	18189		
Excreta .....	103	Loads	
Excreta Pails Emptied .....	4132		
Sludge from Street Gullies .....	223	Loads	
Street Gullies Emptied .....	13240		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks .....	7184		
Salt Distributed on Streets .....	151	Tons	
Grit Distributed on Streets .....	60	Tons	
Length of Streets Salted or Gritted .....	1261	Miles	
Dust Bins added during the year .....	99		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles .....	12171		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper..	4021	Miles	



# HOUSING.

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

## STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under	
(b) ) .....	74
(i) By the local authority .....	69
(ii) By other local authorities .....	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	5
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i)	
above) .....	69
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii)	
above) .....	0

### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for	
housing defects (under Public Health or	
Housing Acts) .....	140
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	2363
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-	
head (1) above) which were inspected and	
recorded under the Housing Consolidated	
Regulations 1925 to 1927 .....	132
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	340
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state	
so dangerous or injurious to health as to be	
unfit for human habitation .....	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those	
referred to under the preceding sub-head)	
found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	
for human habitation .....	125

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in con-	
sequence of informal action by the local auth-	
ority or their officers .....	42

**STATISTICS**  
**(continued).**

3.	Action under statutory powers during the year—	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	43
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By owners .....	27
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	31
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By owners .....	5
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	0

**STATISTICS**  
**(continued).**

4.	Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—	
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	1
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	2
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	12
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	1
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	0
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases...	0
5.	Housing Act, 1949.	
(a)	(i) Number of scheme submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals .....	2
	(b) By the Local Authority .....	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses affected .....	2
(b)	(i) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals .....	0
	(b) Of the Local Authority .....	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses affected .....	0
	(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings provided .....	0

**OVERCROWDING.**

“Overcrowding” as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding is fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, and is a problem aggravated by the acute housing shortage.

**OTHER ACTION.**

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879, were made against four houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. Three of these were vacated and one demolished by the end of the year.

**GENERAL**  
**OBSERVATIONS.**

The chief difficulty is the inability to secure extensive repairs by Informal action, with the result that Statutory procedure has to be invoked with all the additional work and time involved



# Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**SAMPLING.  
MILK**

**Biological.**—Thirty-five samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. All were reported negative.

**Bacteriological.**—Fifty-one samples were examined during the year, of which forty-seven were satisfactory and four unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were mainly of designated milks failing to comply with one or other of the prescribed tests. Steps were taken to ascertain and remedy the cause, and unsatisfactory results were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where appropriate.

**Chemical Analysis of Milk.**—See table at foot of page.

**MEAT AND  
OTHER FOODS.**

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1942, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding stuffs, was as shown in the table on page 30.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

There were forty-two cases of Food Poisoning during the year, only six of these cases were notified in Darwen. Thirty-six other cases were residents from other districts. Full information was passed to the Medical Officers of Health of these areas. The clinical features, viz., acute onset within three hours of ingestion, severe vomiting, marked prostration indicated a pre-formed toxin. Staphylococcus aureus, phage type 47, was isolated from patients, from suspected food, and from a food handler who had a small infected cut on the hand. All the affected persons recovered rapidly. The food was not prepared in Darwen.

**FOOD AND  
DRUGS  
SAMPLING.**

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good.

**SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE.**

No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.
71	Milk.	71	—
4	Ice Cream.	—	4
1	Beef.	—	1

**TABLE SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD  
CONDEMNED DURING 1950.**

Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food.
288 tins	Milk.	2 tins	Puddings.	cwts.	lbs.
16 tins	Assorted	1 chest	Tea.	3	28
	Vegetables.	10 tins	Pastes.	2	8
9 tins	Beans.	44 tins	Spaghetti.		28
39 tins	Meat.	21 tins	Fish.		56
1 tin	Meat and	16 bottles	Salad		70
	Vegetables.		Dressings.		14
9 tins	Assorted Jams.	6 pkts.	Suet.		28
5 tins	Marmalade.	13 pkts.	Mixed		
38 tins	Fruit.		Puddings.	14	
2 jars	Fruit.	10 jars	Assorted	9	
6 tins	Soup.		Pickles.		
4 tins	Apple Puree.	3 tins	Assorted	28	
7 tins	Tomatoes.		Pickles.	32	
1 tin	Bacon.	1 pkt.	Oats.	1	70
1 tin	Sausages.	100 blocks	Ice Cream.		
1 tin	Boiled Ham.	48 cups	Ice Cream.		
15 tins	Synthetic	12	Rabbits.		
	Cream.	26	Geese.		

**RATS AND  
MICE  
DESTRUCTION.**

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a very low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for five years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year—

No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises found infested.	No. of treatments carried out.	Estimated kill of rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of service.
	Killed prior to January, 1950.			10,446
224	108	83	583	11,029

**SEWER  
TREATMENTS.**

Date.	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill.
May	153	64
November	124	46

## **HEALTH EDUCATION.**

A programme on Food Handling had been proposed for the Autumn of 1950. The occurrence of an outbreak of food poisoning underlined the importance of this, and talks were given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health.

A series of lectures were also arranged, given by lecturers from the Central Council for Health Education (Dr. A. A. Miller and Dr. F. Bruce-Jackson), these were well-attended.

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